

Memorial Town Hall, 1 Library Street, Georgetown, MA 01833

Meeting Minutes January 22, 2024

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BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Memorial Town Hall

7:00PM-General Meeting

Verizon Channel 42/Comcast channel 9

Selectmen Present: *A. Smith, Chair, D. Dawes, D. LaMonica, and R. Hoover*

Others Present: *Orlando Pacheco, Town Administrator.
M. Shultz, Administrative Assistant participated on Zoom.

R. Bancroft participating on Zoom.*

7:00PM: CALL TO ORDER

Moment of Silence was done by the Board members.

Pledge of Allegiance

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

A. Smith spoke on the upcoming Whittier Election and informed residents that informational sheets have been passed out, spoke on the hours of voting in the Community.

APPOINTMENT:

D. Dawes motioned the Board to appoint Elizabeth Williams as an alternate member of the Zoning Board of Appeals with an expiration date of June 30, 2024, seconded by D. LaMonica. Roll call vote was taken all in favor.

NEW BUSINESS:

Kerry McManus, Town Clerk of the Town of Georgetown spoke on the recent increase of Public Records request & enforcement that she has been receiving, encourages responses faster than they have been coming -there is a time frame of responses to every public records request and if the Town does not comply there are sanctions that can be held against the Town. Amt of appeals open meeting violations with Board and Committees-difficult enforce -communication has broken down with Boards-violating the law -with some sanctions or end up in Supreme Court-resident have the right to ask for this information -some training for the Boards & Committees -all need to be done in a timely fashion –Refresher training was discussed.

O. Pacheco, Town Administrator spoke on the Mass. Municipal Annual meeting he recently attended and spoke about Insta-Track who provides meeting minutes for local Boards but has experience in the Government Agencies they create meeting minutes along with a summary that could be used, works with local Boards and currently they are working with the Town of Franklin & the Town of Everett. Costs was spoken of, \$75.00 per hour charge for each meeting, minimum of \$3K, can work with any agenda format, product saves time and meeting minutes could be ready for the next meeting, suggested that the Zoning Board of Appeals, Planning Board, Conservation Commission and the Board of Selectman could be the first to use this program. An amount of \$3K for a Minimum of three Boards -\$75 per hour charge for each meeting, eases up staff time, can cater to any agenda format, the Planning Board, the Board of Selectman and the Conservation Commission were Boards that were suggested could benefit from this program.

Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan:

Fire Chief Matt McKay-spoke to the Board on a draft updated Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan this has been adopted by MEMA that he is ready to implement approximately about 100 pages, this plan will be renewed on a yearly basis. It was asked if the Town of Georgetown follows the Seabrook escape plan and it was answered that we do not follow them.

A, Smith motioned the Board to approve the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan As submitted seconded by D. Dawes. Roll call vote was taken all in favor.

Snow & Ice:

Peter Durkee, Highway Supervisor spoke on the authorization to allow deficit spending of the snow and ice account, the current balance in the account is \$9,400.00.

Spoke on recent storms 2 front line trucks broke down -hard to plow at night time –18 inches of snow were the first storm, used a lot of products so had to purchase sand salt and equipment, and still have some outstanding bills, money in account is not going to last, it was asked by a Board member if this happens each year,

D. Lamonica motioned the Board to allow deficit spending for the Georgetown Highway Depart up to \$250K seconded by D. Dawes. Roll call vote was taken all in favor.

Georgetown Police Departments Policies &Procedures Accreditation Process:

Police Chief Dave Sedgwick, Georgetown Police Department's informed the Board that a team of Assessors from Massachusetts Police Commission (MPAC) is coming on Tuesday, February 6, 2024 to begin examining various aspects of the Georgetown Police Departments Policies &Procedures Accreditation Process, this process will take three (3) days -verification by the Assessment Team will let the Department meet the Commission Standards-Gains State Accreditation.

ON-GOING BUSINESS:

A. Smith spoke to the Board about the Solid Waste Committee Bylaw update and the following was spoken of-New by Law or Amended by Law, new mission for the committee, encourage recycling, five members for this Board is recommended, single use committee, changes have to be done at Town Meeting. A. Smith, Chair has asked the Board to review the documents she has given to them regarding the Solid Waste Committee by Law.

American Legion Park update-Parks and Recreation member Jim DiMento and Police Chef David Sedgewick spoke on the following:

Needs to give a history of the park to the Police Chief.

CPC Articles, Band Standing Light,

Water from the pond for irrigation

2nd level review at the next CPC Meeting.

Pay to play in the future will work some sort of system out.

Action items were asked about, signage, Kiosk to get them working by spring, resident stickers, Pickel Ball, starting to work with Brenda Morrison from the GYCC, like to increase budget there was a disconnect with what was happening with the budget.

Budget and what was happening there was a disconnect, Tennis Court, handed out rules and regulations, replacing the -by laws for the park, restriping the parking lot, emergency access, list of action items to be completed, Highway Department taking over the Parks, lighting was paid by a grant.

R. Hoover asked if there is a schedule for these actions items to be done.

A. Smith asked who & how the scheduling is done, Brenda Morrison, GYCC does this through a scheduling software. Was asked to make ore known so people can see what's available.

Determination and Consent Pursuant to Massachusetts Rules of Professional Conduct, Rule 1-7. Rowley Landing.

O. Pacheco, Town Administrator spoke Determination and Consent Pursuant to Massachusetts Rules of Professional Conduct, Rule 1-7. Rowley Landing. O. Pacheco, Town Administrator spoke. Parks and Recreating member Jim DiMento also spoke on a warrant article was done years ago-Town's right were spoken of, a lot if Town History on this, it was asked if the Town was is injured by this, title search, launching of boats.

D. LaMonica stated that if the Town has not been injured by this than no action should to be taken.

R. Hoover motioned the Board to approve the Determination and Consent Pursuant to Massachusetts Rules of Professional Conduct, Rule 1-7. Rowley Landing. Rowley Landing, seconded by D. LaMonica. Roll call vote was taken all in favor.

K & P Law has been funded up to \$10K

The meeting dates for the Board of Selectman will be February 12th & February 25, March 11th & March 25, 2024.

ON-GOING BUSINESS:

Whittier Building Project-A. Smith asked what if the vote tomorrow goes to approving the project what happens next with the Town and when do we have to pay our portion. O. Pacheco, Town Administrator spoke on a possible short-term borrowing will take about two to half years. \$1million a year is an estimated amount -changes over time, interest drop, over a year of assessment that expects that to continue to rise, cap in the number of kids able to go there, more and more students opt to go to a Vocational School.

Started early with a budget-asked about the future-have they started with the third and fourth year, long term range on how we are paying for items an actuary response, finance Committee needs to be looking at the future years, taxes have just increased, unfunded mandates from the state -rumor that it would be closed not true.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

***Animal Control**-Looking into the possibility of regional solution for this position-some Towns have expressed the ability to partner with others so this is being explored with the Town and the Police Chief, David Sedgwick*

***State Budget 9C Cuts** have been made by the Healey Administration to the existing state budget in response to declining revenue- Public safety earmark of \$20,000.00 was reduced to &10,000.00. The Town is working with the Police Department to implement Tapit 6 Upgrade which is Dispatch Software-the Town will not have the funds for the camera upgrades for the Town Hall but the Town will try and address that issue with the Capital Plan.*

***Codification Update**-Ready to proceed with the Code upgrade from General Code was discussed, worked with the Town Clerk -all information has been submitted to be ready for Town Meeting.*

***MMA Annual Meeting** -O. Pacheco, Town Administrator attended the Massachusetts Municipal Association meeting (MMA Meeting) There was a follow up on Local Aid, Informational meetings took place, interesting update on bylaws many vendors at the meeting and believes all this information will be uploaded to the MMA website.*

ADJOURNMENT:

*D. LaMonica motioned the Board to close the Board of Selectman meeting,
seconded by R. Hoover. Roll call vote was taken all in favor.*

*All Board of Selectman Meetings can be viewed on our Town Website at
<https://www.georgetownma.gov> - Under the Community TV tab on the left side.*

Documents used in the meeting:

TA Report

KP Law Informational letter

Application & Resume from applicant ZBA

ADJOURNMENT:

D. LaMonica motioned the Board to adjourn the meeting at 8:32PM, seconded by R. Hoover. Roll call vote was taken all in favor.